

2012-13
SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM
GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The National Teacher of the Year Program is presented by the ING Foundation, and is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program is sponsored by the State Department of Education and coordinated by the Division of Educator Quality and Leadership. This is your invitation to nominate a teacher from your school district for consideration as the 2012-13 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, who will then be considered for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

STATE SELECTION PROCESS

- A. **On or before September 15, 2011, submit the name** of your District Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education's Division of Educator Quality and Leadership.
- B. **The deadline for receiving applications is 5 p.m., January 5, 2012.**
- C. Selection of the State Teacher of the Year will be the combined responsibility of two groups: the Teacher of the Year Screening Committee and the State Selection Committee. **(See South Carolina Teacher of the Year Selection Process)**
- D. The Screening Committee will identify the top twenty-five candidates for consideration by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will then choose five teachers to be named South Carolina Teacher of the Year finalists. A State Teacher of the Year and four Honor Roll Teachers will be named.
- E. The State Teacher of the Year, Honor Roll Teachers, and all District Teachers of the Year will be honored at an awards event in Columbia in the spring. The State Teacher of the Year will receive \$25,000, and each Honor Roll Teacher will receive \$10,000. The District Teachers of the Year will receive \$1,000. Each honoree will receive citations and appropriate commendations from the State Superintendent of Education and State Board of Education.
- F. The State Superintendent of Education will enter the name of the South Carolina Teacher of the Year in the 2012-13 National Teacher of the Year Program in the fall of 2012.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the Teacher of the Year Program by any school district in South Carolina is optional. It will be the responsibility of the superintendent to nominate one teacher from his or her district based on the district's chosen selection method. District selection methods vary widely.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- A. The teacher is a classroom teacher in a public kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school. Nominees include all subject area teachers, vocational teachers, librarians/media specialists, guidance counselors, curriculum resource teachers, teacher specialists, speech therapists and lead teachers.
- B. Nominees are exceptionally skillful and dedicated kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school teachers who are planning to continue in an active teaching status. **All nominees must be continuing contract teachers and have direct contact with students a minimum of three hours a day on average.** Nominees must hold a valid South Carolina teaching certificate.
- C. Nominees have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and co-workers. They should play active roles in their communities and schools, often distinguishing themselves as leaders.

- D. Nominees demonstrate a willingness to devote time and energy to activities which result in improved instruction for children. They demonstrate a desire to keep abreast of current educational theories and practices through continued staff development and by attending workshops and seminars in their particular areas.
- E. Nominees demonstrate the ability and willingness to make contributions to the field of education by conducting seminars and workshops and by being involved in training and assisting fellow teachers in their professional development. They show examples of innovative practices in their classrooms.
- F. As an ambassador for the state's public education system, the South Carolina Teacher of the Year will make numerous public appearances. The nominee is poised, articulate, and has the energy and equanimity to withstand a busy schedule. While all of these qualifications are considered for selection, the most important qualification is a superior ability to impart knowledge to students and to inspire them with a love of learning.
- G. The teacher selected as South Carolina Teacher of the Year will serve a one-year Teacher in Residence at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA), which begins June 1, 2012 and ends May 31, 2013. The South Carolina Teacher of the Year will also serve as Chair of the South Carolina Teacher Forum.